

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 SNM-02 ISO-00 /013 W
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P 130350Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3336

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

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DEA HQS FOR EOI AND IG; STATE FOR S/NM AND NEA/PB; ANKARA,
TEHRAN ISLAMABAD AND KARACHI FOR DEA FROM SAIC PETTIT

1. DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 1,1975, SAIC PETTIT AGREED TO
DEA SUPPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION BEING PROPOSED FOR INVIT-
ATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS NARCOTIC ADVISOR AND HIS AFGHAN
POLICE COUNTERPARTS IN THE ANTI-SMUGGLING UNIT (ASU). THAT
SUPPORT TO TAKE THE FORM OF REWARDS
FOR THE PROSPECTIVE
INFORMANTS TO BE DEVELOPED. SINCE THE PROPOSED INVESTIGA N
PROMISED TO RESULT IN THE POSSIBLE SEIZURE OF MULTI-TON
QUANTITIES OF OPIUM, SAIC PETTIT AGREED TO FURNISH A REWARD
OF US\$3.00 PER KILOGRAM SEIZED WITH THE TOTAL REWARD NOT
TO EXCEED US\$5,000.00. (SUCH REWARD TO BE PAID FROM SPECIAL
AFGHAN ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS.)

2. DURING THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 8,1975, ASU PERSONNEL ACTING
UPON INFORMATION FROM THE INFORMANTS DEVELOPED DUE TO THE
DEA SUPPORT SEIZED 127 BAGS, EACH CONTAINING ABOUT ONE
"SEER" OF RAW OPIUM, (ONE SEER EQUALS 7.5 KILOGRAMS) FOR
AN APPROXIMATE TOTAL OF 952 KILOGRAMS OR 2096 POUNDS. EACH
"SEER" WAS WRAPPED IN WHITE MUSLIN AND FURTHER SEALED IN
PASTEL-COLORED PLASTIC BAGS. THE BAGS WERE SECRETED IN COMP-
ARTMENTS OVER THE CAB AND IN THE FLOOR OF THE BED OF A LARGE
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STAKE-BED TRUCK THAT WAS TRAVELLING FROM KABUL TO GHAZNI

(A PROVINCIAL CAPITOL ABOUT 90 MILES SOUTHWEST OF KABUL). THE SUSPECT VEHICLE AND ITS TWO OCCUPANTS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AND DISCREETLY HELD AT KABUL PENDING THE POSSIBLE SEIZURE OF AN ADDITIONAL LOAD BELONGING TO THE SAME PRINCIPAL.

3. DURING THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 10, 1975, ASU PERSONNEL ACTING UPON FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE SAME INFORMANTS MADE A NEAR-IDENTICAL SEIZURE IN THE SAME AREA. ON THAT OCCASION 117 "SEER" BAGS OF RAW OPIUM WERE SEIZED WHEN FOUND SIMILARLY CONCEALED IN A SECOND STAKE-BED TRUCK, (117 SEER EQUALS ABOUT 878 KILOGRAMS OR 1932 POUNDS) THUS BRINGING THE TOTAL OPIUM SEIZED IN THIS INVESTIGATION TO DATE TO ABOUT 1830 KILOGRAMS OR 4028 POUNDS.

4. ALL PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE SEIZED OPIUM WAS PRODUCED IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA OF AFGHANISTAN OR THE NORTHWESTERN AREA OF PAKISTAN AND WAS INTENDED FOR ULTIMATE DELIVERY TO IRAN. (MUCH OF THE SEIZED OPIUM IS STILL MOIST AND PLIABLE INDICATING ITS RECENT COLLECTION.)

5. INVESTIGATION AND INTERROGATIONS OF PRISONERS ARE CONTINUING WITH A VIEW TO THE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE PRINCIPAL WHOSE ARREST IS EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

6. DEA'S DOCUMENTATION AND COLLECTION OF SAMPLES IS IN PROGRESS AND DETAILED INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE SUBMITTED ASAP.

7. THE WHOLESALE VALUE, IN AFGHANISTAN, OF THESE SEIZURES IS NEARLY FOUR MILLION AFGHANIS (ABOUT US\$70,000) THUS THE DEA REWARD INVOLVED IS EXPECTED TO REPRESENT ONLY ABOUT SEVEN PERCENT OF THE WHOLESALE VALUE. ALTHOUGH THERE REMAINS SOME POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL SEIZURES IN THIS CASE, THE DEA REWARD WILL NOT EXCEED US\$5,000.

8. AS FAR AS OUR RECORDS SHOW, THESE ARE THE LARGEST SEIZURES MADE BASED UPON A PLANNED REPEAT PLANNED NARCOTIC INVESTIGATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN RECENT AFGHAN HISTORY. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THIS CASE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES INCREASING AFGHAN WILL TO SUPPRESS THE TRAFFIC AND THE NECESSITY FOR CONTINUING AND SUBSTANTIAL USG SUPPORT OF THE TYPE JUST DESCRIBED.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
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